

**Amendments to the Specification**

On page 1 of the application, please replace the section titled "BACKGROUND - FIELD OF INVENTION" with the following amended section:

**BACKGROUND [ - FIELD] OF THE INVENTION**

This invention is in the field of the suppression of sub-surface aquatic weed growth. More specifically, this invention relates to a sub-surface aquatic weed barrier consisting of a strip of plastic, with a series of gas release ports, which is held down by transverse weights bonded to the plastic strip.

On page 1 of the application, please delete the heading **[ [BACKGROUND - DESCRIPTION OF PRIOR ART]]**.

On Page 3 of the application, please replace the fourth paragraph, which begins "After years of involvement", with the following amended paragraph:

~~After years of involvement in the aquatic weed problem as relates to fresh water lakes, I have finally identified a~~

~~solution It therefore would be desirable to provide an aquatic weed suppressor which is economical, easy to install and not overly labor-intensive, long-lasting, will remain in place, and will effectively kill all types of targeted weeds. and does the job. This is the subject of this disclosure.~~

On page 3 of the application, please delete the last paragraph, which begins "A means of blocking the sun's rays".

On page 4 of the application, please delete the heading **[ [OBJECTS AND ADVANTAGES] ] .**

On page 4 of the application, please delete the second line, **[ [The several objects and advantages of this invention are:] ] .**

On page 4 of the application, please replace paragraph a) with the following amended paragraph:

a) ~~The prevention of It is therefore an object of the present invention to prevent~~ the growth of submersed aquatic weeds by restricting sunlight reaching the aquatic substrate.

On page 4 of the application, please replace paragraph b) with the following amended paragraph:

b) ~~Integral with the barrier is the means to keep It is another object of the present invention to provide an aquatic weed suppressor wherein~~ the sunlight~~[-blocking means]~~ barrier is kept in place on the aquatic bed; ~~there is no~~ without a need to add rocks or other weights.

On page 4 of the application, please replace paragraph c) with the following amended paragraph:

c) It is another object of the present invention to provide an aquatic weed suppressor whereby ~~[[T]] the gases of decomposition at the substrate readily escape the sunlight barrier by being directed to exhaust ports by the hold down means.~~

On page 4 of the application, please replace paragraph d) with the following amended paragraph:

d) ~~The barrier~~ It is yet another object of the present invention to provide an aquatic weed suppressor that can be

placed at any time, even when the weeds are in full growth and in any depth of water without anyone necessarily going into the water.

On page 4 of the application, please replace paragraph e) with the following amended paragraph:

e) ~~The It is another object of the present invention to provide an aquatic weed suppressor whose life expectancy of this devise in lake water conditions is limited only by the degradation of the barrier by sunlight or the accumulation of sediment on the barrier; the first of which is reduced by the selection of barrier material and the light filtering effect of water and the second by the design of the devise.~~

On page 4 of the application, please replace paragraph f) with the following amended paragraph:

f) ~~Because of its simplicity, the use of inexpensive materials, its ease of installation, and its relatively long life, this weed suppression system is far and away the most It is still another object of the present invention to provide an aquatic weed suppressor that is cost effective, easy to install,~~

and environmentally ly friendly ~~of all the weed suppressors or removal systems available at this time.~~

On page 4 of the application, please delete the last paragraph, which begins "The key novelty in this invention", and add the following new paragraph in its place:

In accordance with the present invention, a means of blocking the sun's rays so they do not stimulate aquatic plant growth is provided. The invention includes an opaque film which is held down on the substrate by bars which are heavier than water. The bars are integral with the film, attached to the film, or otherwise positioned on the film in a configuration that causes gases of decomposition to migrate to sections of the film where the gases can escape from under the film through release ports.

On page 5 of the application, please replace the heading [DISCUSSION OF INVENTION]] with the heading DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS.